

Notes on a Collection of Birds from Port Darwin.

By GEORGE MASTERS, Curator Macleayan Museum.

The Birds enumerated in this Paper were shot by Mr. Spalding, at or near Port Darwin, during the months of May, June, July, August, and September of the present year.

I find only one undescribed species, but a number of them are little known, and very rare in collections. I have fortunately been enabled, through the accurate observations of Mr. Spalding, to give some idea of the habits of many of the species, and of the apparent rarity or nonrarity of them all. For this reason I believe that these few notes will be acceptable to Australian Ornithologists.

1.—HALIASTUR LEUCOSTERNUS, *Gould.*

This species appears to be common near the coast, and is frequently to be seen hovering over the settlement.

2.—HALIASTUR SPHENURUS, *Vieill.*

Not very common ; generally seen about Lagoons.

3.—PANDION LEUCOCEPHALUS, *Gould.*

Seen occasionally ; not common.

4.—HIERACIDEA BERIGORA, *Vig. and Horsf.*

Not uncommon. The specimens obtained vary considerably in size and colour.

5.—ASTUR APPROXIMANS, *Vig. and Horsf.*

One young male only ; rarely seen.

6.—BAZA SUBSCRISTATA, *Gould.*

Two obtained ; two others seen ; frequents scrubs.

7.—STRIX NOVÆ HOLLANDIÆ, *Steph.*

The specimen obtained was shot in a tea-tree swamp ; no others seen.

8.—SPILOGLAUX BOOBOOK, *Lath.*

Common ; smaller in size and paler in colour than New South Wales specimens.

9.—ÆGOTHELES LEUCOGASTER, *Gould.*

Plentiful, but difficult to obtain.

10.—*PODARGUS GOULDII*, *Masters*.

Four specimens of this fine and distinct species were obtained, varying but little from the type which was shot in the Gulf of Carpentaria.

11.—*EUROSTOPODUS GUTTATUS*, *Vig. and Horsf.*

One obtained; evidently not common.

12.—*CAPRIMULGUS MACRURUS*, *Horsfield*.

Plentiful; about bamboo jungles.

13.—*DACELO CERVINA*, *Gould*.

Not uncommon, but very wary.

14.—*TODIRAMPHUS SORDIDUS*, *Gould*.

Common, and frequents dense mangroves.

15.—*TODIRAMPHUS PYRRHOPYGIUS*, *Gould*.

Rather scarce; frequents forest country.

16.—*CYANALCYON MACLEAYI*, *Jardine and Selby*.

Very common; the specimens obtained are remarkably bright in colour.

17.—*ALCYONE PULCHRA*, *Gould*.

Very rare; only one obtained and another seen.

18.—*ARTAMUS MINOR*, *Vieill.*

Plentiful during the months of July and August.

19.—*ARTAMUS LEUCOPYGIALIS*, *Gould*.

Very common.

20.—*ARTAMUS CINEREUS*, *Vieill.*

Common during the months of August and September.

21.—*PARDALOTUS UROPYGIALIS*, *Gould*.

Plentiful; excavates a hole in the ground for its nest, similar to *P. punctatus* of New South Wales.

22.—*CRACTICUS PICATUS*, *Gould*.

Not very plentiful.

23.—*CRACTICUS ARGENTEUS*, *Gould*.

Rather more numerous than the last.

24.—*CRACTICUS SPALDINGI*, N. SP.

All the upper surface of a dull black, margins of the feathers brighter, and with a slight glossy hue; under surface, wings, and tail of a dull rusty-brown, under tail-coverts black; bill, bluish black; legs and feet of the same colour. Total length, 14 inches; wing, $7\frac{1}{2}$; tail, 6; tarsi, 1.7; bill from forehead, 2.4.

At first sight this bird might be taken for *Cracticus Quoyii*, Lesson.

The very much larger bill and tarsi, and the rusty-brown hue, will at once serve to distinguish it from that species. The base of all the feathers above and below are of a dull white, and not slaty-brown as in *C. Quoyii*.

I have named this species after its discoverer, Mr. Edward Spalding.

25.—*GRALLINA PICATA*, Lath.

Common everywhere.

26.—*GRAUCALUS MELANOPS*, Lath.

Very plentiful.

27.—*CAMPEPHAGA RUFIVENTRIS*, Pucher.

Common in the scrubs.

28.—*CAMPEPHAGA HUMERALIS*, Gould.

Common during July and August; no adult males obtained or seen.

29.—*PACHYCEPHALA SIMPLEX*, Gould.

Pretty common.

30.—*PACHYCEPHALA FALCATA*, Gould.

A few obtained; not plentiful.

31.—*COLLURICINCLA BRUNNEA*, Gould.

Very common.

32.—*COLLURICINCLA PARVULA*, Gould.

A few fine specimens obtained.

33.—*CHIBIA BRACTEATA*, Gould.

Very plentiful.

34.—*RHIPIDURA DRYAS*, Gould.

35.—RHIPIDURA ISURA, *Gould.*

Both very common.

36.—SAULOPROCTA PICATA, *Gould.*

Rare ; two obtained ; only two others seen.

37.—SEISURA NANA, *Gould.*

Common.

38.—PIEZORHYNCHUS NITIDUS, *Gould.*

Plentiful in the mangroves.

39.—MYIAGRA CONCINNA, *Gould.*

Common.

40.—MICRÆCA FLAVIGASTER, *Gould.*

Rare ; generally found about mangrove creeks.

41.—GERYGONE CHLORONOTA, *Gould.*

A few obtained ; not very plentiful.

42.—SMICRORNIS FLAVESCENS, *Gould.*

Common during August and September.

43.—MALURUS CRUENTATUS, *Gould.*

Rare near the coast ; more common inland.

44.—ANTHUS AUSTRALIS, *Vig. and Horsf.*

Very rare, and very diminutive in comparison with New South Wales specimens.

45.—PTENÆDUS RUFESCENS, *Vig. and Horsf.*

Not common ; seen occasionally about long grass.

46.—SPHENÆACUS GALACTOTES, *Temm.*

Not uncommon about long sedgy grass near water.

47.—POËPHILA GOULDIÆ, *Gould.*

Very rare, and seen only upon two occasions.

48.—POËPHILA ACUTICAUDA, *Gould.*

Three obtained, and the only ones seen.

49.—POËPHILA PERSONATA, *Gould.*

Also very rare.

50.—DONACOLA CASTANEOTHORAX, *Gould.*

Very common.

51.—PITTA IRIS, *Gould.*

Frequents thick^d bamboo jungles. Scarce, and difficult to obtain.

52.—CHLAMYDODERA NUHALIS, *Jard. and Selb.*

Seen occasionally, but never very common.

53.—MIMETA FLAVOCINCTA, *Vig. and Horsf.*

Very numerous.

54.—MIMETA VIRIDIS, *Lath.*

An occasional visitor. Generally in pairs.

55.—CORVUS AUSTRALIS. *Gmel.*

Scarce, and very shy.

56.—POMATOSTOMUS RUBECULUS, *Gould.*

Frequents lightly timbered country, generally in small flocks of seven or eight.

The nest is dome-shaped, of large size, outwardly composed of small sticks, and lined with fine soft grass.

The eggs are thirteen lines in length by ten lines in breadth, are of a light brown, clouded with a darker tint, and streaked both longitudinally and transversely with wavy almost black lines.

57.—GLYCIPHILA FASCIATA, *Gould.*

Frequents edges of jungles. Not uncommon.

58.—STIGMATOPS OCULARIS, *Gould.*59.—STIGMATOPS SUBOCULARIS, *Gould.*

Both plentiful.

60.—STOMIOPTERA UNICOLOR, *Gould.*

Also very common.

61.—CONOPHILA ALBIGULARIS, *Gould.*

Seen occasionally, not particularly common.

62.—MYZOMELA OBSCURA, *Gould.*

Frequents flowering trees, pretty plentiful.

63.—MYZOMELA ERYTHROCEPHALA, *Gould.*

Not common, frequents high mangroves.

64.—ENTOMYZA ALBIPENNIS, *Gould.*

Rather scarce, generally seen in pairs.

65.—*MELITHREPTUS ALBOGULARIS*, *Gould.*

Common.

66.—*ZOSTEROPS LUTEUS*, *Gould.*

Rare, only two obtained.

67.—*CLIMACTERIS MELANURA*, *Gould.*

Frequently seen, but not very plentiful.

Mr. Gould's description has been taken from a male, which has the whole of the throat white, each feather being broadly margined with black. The female differs from the male in having the chin and fore part of the throat white; the hinder part is also white, but each feather is very broadly margined with a rich chestnut brown.

68.—*SITTELLA LEUCOPTERA*, *Gould.*

Rare, three specimens obtained.

69.—*CACATUA GALERITA*, *Lath.*

Very plentiful.

70.—*CACATUA SANGUINEA*, *Gould.*

During the month of July this species was to be seen in flocks of thousands.

71.—*CACATUA ROSEICAPILLA*, *Vieill.*

Rare, occasionally seen in small flocks.

72.—*CALYPTORHYNCHUS MACRORHYNCHUS*, *Gould.*

Common.

73.—*PTISTES COCCINEOPTERUS*, *Gould.*

Common.

74.—*PLATYCERCUS VENUSTUS*, *Kuhl.*

Rather scarce, and very local.

75.—*TRICHOGLOSSUS RUBRITORQUIS*, *Vig. and Horsf.*76.—*PTILOSCLERA VERSICOLOR*, *Vig.*

Both species very common.

77.—*PTILINOPUS EWINGII*, *Gould.*

Plentiful, but rather difficult to obtain.

78.—*MYRISTICIVORA SPILORRHOA*, *G. R. Gray*

A few seen.

79.—PHAPS CHALCOPTERA, *Lath.*

Rare near the coast, common inland.

80.—GEOPHAPS SMITHII, *Jard. and Selb.*

Very plentiful.

81.—CHALCOPHAPS LONGIROSTRIS, *Gould.*

Common in the brushes.

82.—ERYTHRAUCHENA HUMERALIS, *Temm.*83.—GEOPELIA PLACIDA, *Gould.*

Both pretty common.

84.—MEGAPODIUS TUMULUS, *Gould.*

Rather scarce. No recent mounds seen.

85.—SYNOICUS SORDIDUS, *Gould.*

Seen occasionally.

86.—DROMAIUS NOVÆ HOLLANDIÆ, *Lath.*

Rare near the coast, plentiful inland.

87.—ÆDICNEMUS GRALLARIUS, *Lath.*

Common.

88.—ESACUS MAGNIROSTRIS, *Geoff.*

Not plentiful. Seen occasionally on the reefs.

89.—LOBIVANELLUS PERSONATUS, *Gould.*

Common.

90.—OCHTHODROMUS INORNATUS, *Gould.*91.—GLAREOLA GRALLARIA., *Temm.*

Not plentiful. Both seen occasionally in small flocks.

92.—HIMANTOPUS LEUCOCEPHALUS, *Gould.*

Rare. In the young the top of the head and the back of the neck are grey.

93.—NUMENIUS UROPYGIALIS, *Gould.*94.—NUMENIUS MINOR, *Müller.*

Rather plentiful about fresh water lagoons, also frequents the sea-shore and reefs.

95.—PARRA GALLINACEA, *Temm.*

Rare; only seen about one lagoon.

96.—*ERYTHRA QUADRISTRIGATA*, *Horsf.*

One obtained, and the only one seen.

97.—*GRUS AUSTRALASIANUS*, *Gould.*

Rather plentiful, but very wary; an egg only of this species obtained.

98.—*HERODIAS PICATA*, *Gould.*99.—*HERODIAS MELANOPUS*, *Wagl.*

Both kinds rather plentiful about the fresh water lagoons, but difficult to get.

100.—*NYCTICORAX CALEDONICUS*, *Gmel.*

Not uncommon, but rarely seen.

101.—*BUTOROIDES FLAVICOLLIS*, *Iath.*

Not plentiful.

102.—*NETTAPUS PULCHELLUS*, *Gould.*

Very common on fresh water lagoons; ten fine specimens obtained.

103.—*TADORNA RADJAH*, *Garn.*

Seen occasionally; five obtained.

104.—*PHALACROCORAX MELANOLEUCUS*, *Vieill.*105.—*PHALACROCORAX STICTOCEPHALES*, *Bonap.*

Not very plentiful, and frequent both salt and fresh water.

106.—*PLOTUS NOVE HOLLANDIÆ*, *Gould.*

Not common; one female obtained.

A General Account of the Flora of Tropical Queensland. By
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If we look back some thirty or forty years we can scarcely now believe that it was often then said that the Australian flowers were without beauty or fragrance, yet nevertheless such was the cry, as many of us can well remember. Of timber trees also we were said to possess but few, just Gums and Wattles, the wood of which was thought to be too heavy and hard ever to be brought into much use. But now what a change has taken